

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /187 W

----- 057616

R 111020Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 1171

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENGR

SUBJECT: ARAB OIL MINISTERS CONFERENCE

1. AHRAM, AKHBAR, AND EGYPTIAN GAZETTE MARCH 11 ALL FRONT-PAGE STORY THAT OIL MINISTERS WILL NOW MEET IN TRIPOLI. ALL THREE GIVE FULL TEXT OF PRESS COMMUNIQUE RELEASED MARCH 10 BY MAHMUD RUSHDI, EGYPTIAN UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: ON DECEMBER 8, 1973, THE ARAB OIL MINISTERS DECIDED TO HOLD THEIR NEXT MEETING IN TRIPOLI. WHEN TIME FOR THE MEETING WAS FINALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DETERMINED, IT HAPPENED THAT TRIPOLI WAS CROWDED WITH

VISITORS TO THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR THERE. GOE THEN HASTENED TO INVITE THE MINISTERS TO MEET IN CAIRO, BUT IT WAS LATER POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR HOSTING ARAB DELEGATIONS IN TRIPOLI, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THE ORIGINAL INVITATION. CONFERENCE WILL OPEN IN TRIPOLI WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13. THE ARAB OIL MINISTERS NOW IN CAIRO WILL LEAVE FOR TRIPOLI TO ATTEND THE MEETING AT THE APPOINTED TIME. END QUOTE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SADAT WILL MEET TODAY WITH OIL MINISTERS OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, ABU DHABI, QATAR AND BAHRAIN, TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADORS OF OIL PRODUCING STATES WHOSE MINISTERS DID NOT ARRIVE YESTERDAY IN CAIRO. MINISTERS WILL FLY TO TRIPOLI ON MARCH 13.

3. ACCORDING TO AKHBAR FEATURE STORY, THERE IS "FULL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING STATES ON LIFTING EMBARGO FROM US." THERE HAD FORMERLY BEEN AGREEMENT TO HOLD MEETING IN TRIPOLI BUT LIBYA APOLOGIZED, SAYING LACK OF SPACE FOR DELEGATES BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION MADE HOLDING THE CONFERENCE IMPOSSIBLE. EGYPT ASKED ALGERIA IF MEETING COULD BE HELD IN CAIRO ON MARCH 10. "ARAB STATES" AGREED TO CAIRO'S INVITATION. MORNING OF MARCH 10, LIBYA'S POSITION CHANGED AND GOL INDICATED IT PREPARED HOLD MEETING IN TRIPOLI. EGYPT DID NOT OBJECT BECAUSE "WE HAD AGREED TO HOLDING THE MEETING IN LIBYA AND THE APOLOGY HAD COME FROM THE LIBYAN SIDE. IN ANY CASE, THE VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE IS ONLY A FORMAL MATTER."

4. THE PAPER CONTINUES: IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE REAL REASON FOR THE LIBYAN APOLOGY WAS LIBYA'S NOT AGREEING UPON LIFTING THE OIL EMBARGO FROM AMERICA BUT THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN OIL PRODUCING ARAB STATES, DURING WHICH AMERICA'S POSITION WAS STUDIED, RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF RAISING THE EMBARGO BECAUSE AMERICA'S POSITION HAS CHANGED AND THE "LACK OF CONFIDENCE COMPLEX" HAS ENDED. AFTER ARAB CONTACTS MARCH 10, IT WAS AGREED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI MARCH 13.

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5. THE PAPER ALSO NOTES THAT SOME ARAB INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMMENTED UPON LIFTING THE EMBARGO FROM THE US SAYING THIS WILL SUPPORT PRESIDENT NIXON'S INTERNAL POSITION, THUS HELPING HIM TO CONTINUE PRESSURING ISRAEL. EILTS

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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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